

Payment for Water in Canton Vaud (Switzerland)

Location

Country: Switzerland

Scale: Regional

Region: West of canton Vaud



Compensated /improved ecosystem services

Water filtration by forest soil

CICES Class: Ground (and subsurface) water for drinking

Management

Partnerships between forest owners and three water distributors (2 communes and 1 intercommunal service).

A catalogue describes the measures that the forest owners can undertake to protect water filtration by forest (or to increase the water quality). The water distributors choose in this catalogue, which measures they want the forest owners to realize and pay for it/them.

A contract between the forest owner and the water distributor is signed; the catalogue of measures is the base for the contract. Each measure has a fixed price, which is calculated by the mean of a scientific tool. A contract has a duration of 5 years and the payment is done each year. According to the legislation in force in the Canton of Vaud, the costs of the services chosen can be charged to the water account and carried over to the consumer via an increase of the price of water.

More information can be found here <http://www.cboud.ch/index.php/je-filtre-accueil/contexte> (in French)

Stakeholders

Sellers or service providers:

Forest owners: depending on the measures they realize, change in forest management practice can secure the service of water filtration furnished by forest soil. If they realize any measures of the catalogue, the service sellers (forest owners) provide the effort, change their habits, ways of working or make concessions. The name of the association of forest owners selling the service of water filtration is AGFORS.

Buyers and beneficiaries of services:

Water distributors (two communes or one intercommunal service) are willing to pay for a safeguarded ecosystem service of water filtration furnished by forest. The name of the two communes are Marchissy and Bassins and the name of the intercommunal service is SIDERE.

Knowledge providers:

Francois Godi (forest engineer) is the expert supporting the forest owners during the whole process (<http://www.ggconsultingsarl.ch/index.php?cle=presentation>)

Donors – funding agencies or sponsors:

The Federal Office for the Environment supported research before the implementation of the PES schemes (ALPEAU project <http://www.alpeau.org/images/GuideAlpeau.pdf>)

Intermediaries:

The Federal Office for the Environment is now thinking to act as an intermediary to facilitate such PES in the whole country.

Timeline

Establishment year: 2017

Time horizon: short term (up to 5 years)

Status of PES: active scheme

Availability of economic data

No data available

References / Source of information

More information can be find here <http://www.cbovd.ch/index.php/je-filtre-accueil/contexte> (in French)

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